

BRIDGE ACROSS THE COLUMBIA RIVER BETWEEN LONG-  
VIEW, WASH., AND RAINIER, OREG.

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FEBRUARY 12, 1925.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BURTNESS, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11856]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11856) a bill granting the consent of Congress to W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook to construct a bridge across the Columbia River between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Oreg., having considered the same, report thereon with amendment and as so amended recommend that it pass.

The bill as amended has the approval of the War and Agriculture Departments, as will appear by the letters attached and which are made a part of this report.

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 2 after line 4 insert a new section reading as follows:

SEC. 2. The State of Washington or Oregon, or any political subdivision or subdivisions thereof, may at any time acquire all right, title, and interest in said bridge and the approaches thereto constructed under the authority of this act, for the purpose of maintaining and operating such bridge as a free bridge, by the payment to the owners of the reasonable value thereof, not to exceed in any event the original construction cost thereof; provided, That the said State or political subdivision or subdivisions may operate such bridge as a toll bridge not to exceed five years from date of acquisition thereof, for the purpose of retiring any bonds that may be issued for the purchase of said bridge.

Page 2 line 5 strike out "2" and insert "3" in lieu thereof.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 27, 1925.*

Respectfully returned to the chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

So far as the interests committed to this department are concerned, I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill, H. R. 11856, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, "Granting the consent of Congress to W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook to construct a bridge across the Columbia River between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Oreg."

As the navigable portions of the Columbia River do not lie within the limits of a single State, the consent of Congress is required under section 9 of the river and harbor act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151), for the construction of a bridge thereover.

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, January 31, 1925.

Hon. SAMUEL E. WINSLOW,  
*Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,  
United States House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. WINSLOW: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 23 inclosing a copy of H. R. 11856 for report thereon and for such views relative thereto as the department might desire to communicate.

This bill would authorize W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, and their successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Columbia River between the city of Longview, Wash., and the city of Ranier, Oreg. The proposed bridge would not be on the system of Federal aid highways approved for Washington or Oregon, but its location is such that the approaches may be extended to connect with the Federal aid system in both Oregon and Washington. It is suggested for the consideration of your committee, therefore, that it might be well to make provision in the bill for the State highway departments of Oregon and Washington to approve the plans and specifications for said bridge and also to give them the power to acquire all rights, title, and interest in the bridge and approaches thereto upon the payment of the reasonable value thereof. Aside from this, the department has no suggestion to offer concerning the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M. GORE, *Secretary.*

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